

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of producing elastic cuffs for resultant garments obtained from a web assembly of precursor garments, the steps comprising:

a) applying necking tension to the web assembly of precursor garments to neck each precursor garment to provide a percent neckdown of about 20% to about 80% thereby placing the precursor garment at a first width, the precursor garment being extendible to a second non-necked width wider than the first width when the necking tension is removed;

b) affixing ~~unstretched~~ strands of elastic material in an untensioned state to a cuff area of each precursor garment while at the first width;

c) removing necking tension from each of the precursor garments with the elastic material thereon and causing the precursor garment to assume the non-necked second width at areas outside the cuff area having the elastic material thereon; and

d) dividing the web assembly of precursor garments into resultant garments;

e) whereby the elastic material holds the cuff area at a dimension narrower than the second width in the resultant garments.

2. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the step of affixing an elastic material to the cuff area further comprises applying a pre-elastic when the precursor garments are at the first width, and treating the pre-elastic to become an elastomeric while the precursor garments are at the first width.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1 wherein each of the precursor garments comprises a backsheet defined by the web assembly.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 3 wherein each of the precursor garments further comprises a topsheet defined by the web assembly.

5. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the precursor garments comprise an assembled diaper lacking only the cuff area.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 3 wherein the backsheet comprises material selected from the group comprising: neckable nonwovens, neckable films, neckable laminates, or combinations thereof.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the elastic material is applied under tension thereby gathering the precursor garment and providing a doubly expandable cuff area with a first stage expansion taking out the gathers, and a second stage expansion expanding the material of the garment body.

9. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 1 further including applying a precursor elastic to the cuff area and treating the precursor elastic to become elastomeric while the cuff area is at the first width.

10. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 9 further including treating the precursor elastic with heat.

11. (Original) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the cuff area is a leg cuff area.

12. (Original) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the cuff area is a waistband area.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of producing selectively elastic areas in a web assembly of precursor garments, the web assembly having a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction, the steps comprising:

a) necking the web assembly of precursor garments to provide a percent neckdown of about 20% to about 80% thereby placing the web assembly at a first width, with width being measured in the lateral direction, the web assembly being expandable to a second non-necked width wider than the first width when the necking tension is removed;

b) affixing ~~unstretched~~ strands of elastic material in an untensioned state to a selected area of the web assembly when the web assembly is at the first width;

c) removing necking tension from the selected area of the web assembly with the elastic thereon and causing the web assembly to assume the second width at areas outside the selected area of the web assembly, whereby the elastic material holds the selected area of the web assembly at a dimension narrower than the second width; and

d) dividing the web assembly of precursor garments into resultant garments.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of producing elastic waistbands for resultant garments obtained from a web assembly of precursor garments, the precursor garments having a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction, the steps comprising:

- a) applying necking tension to the web assembly of precursor garments to neck each precursor garment to provide a percent neckdown of about 20% to about 80% thereby placing the precursor garment at a first width in the lateral direction of the precursor garment, the precursor garment being extendible to a second non-necked width wider than the first width when the necking tension is removed;
- b) affixing ~~unstretched~~ strands of elastic material in an untensioned state to a waistband portion of each precursor garment while at the first width;
- c) removing necking tension from each of the precursor garments with the elastic material thereon and causing the precursor garment to assume the non-necked second width at areas outside the waistband portion having elastic material; and
- d) dividing the web assembly of precursor garments into resultant garments;
- e) whereby the elastic material holds the waistband portion at a dimension narrower than the second width in the resultant garments.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of producing elastic leg cuffs for resultant garments obtained from a web assembly of precursor garments, the precursor garments having a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction, the steps comprising:

a) applying necking tension to the web assembly of precursor garments to neck a leg cuff area of each precursor garment to provide a percent neckdown of about 20% to about 80% thereby placing the leg cuff area at a first width in the longitudinal direction of the precursor garment, the leg cuff area of the precursor garment being extendible to a second non-necked width wider than the first width when the necking tension is removed;

b) affixing ~~unstretched~~ strands of elastic material in an untensioned state to the leg cuff area of each precursor garment while at the first width;

c) removing necking tension from each of the precursor garments with the elastic material thereon and causing the precursor garment to assume the non-necked second width at areas outside the leg cuff area having elastic material; and

d) dividing the web assembly of precursor garments into resultant garments;

e) whereby the elastic material holds the leg cuff area at a dimension narrower than the second width in the resultant garments.

16-27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the cuff area is necked to from about 20 to about 60%.

29. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the cuff area is necked to from about 30 to about 50%.

30-31. (Canceled)

32. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 13 wherein the web is necked to from about 20 to about 60%.

33. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 13 wherein the web is necked to from about 30 to about 50%.